



Harsh Luthra  
PO Box 8295  
New Haven, CT 06510

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Via Email

## Testimony Regarding SB1

I strongly support solar power for the savings it will provide residents of Connecticut and the environmental benefits it offers over every other energy source. CT has dropped to #18 from #9 in the country for solar energy programs. The tiny rebate currently that CT has is not enough to make residents go solar in the masses, especially in a economy such as ours where residents have little extra money. To lower our future energy costs, we all must support solar power so that no new power plants are needed and so that we can get electricity from the free energy of the sun and not from nuclear or fossil fuels.

The current bill opens up the definition of class 1 renewables to hydro power from Quebec and UI and CLP will buy this power to meet the renewable energy requirement, putting to stop the growth of solar, wind and other true renewables. Hydro power is good but it is not going to solve all our energy problems and we must therefore make sure this bill is limited Connecticut renewables, particularly solar and wind.

CLP and UI does not support in state solar and wind wanting to buy power from Quebec hydro and make money selling their power. The utilities are only interested in making money and have no concern for the environment. They have done nothing for the past 50 years and they want to continue on that path. We need to stop this madness.

CLP and UI asks for rate increases every year for the past 30 to 60 years. And we have gotten nothing from that. CT has the highest rates because of what you have allowed CLP and UI to do over the past 30 years. When you force them to change, then the people of Connecticut will have lower rates, they are a public utility which should be regulated. Why does Wallingford have a rate that is half that of the rest of the state? Because they are not making a 50% profit on every bit of dirty electricity they sell. NU and UI prefer to pay their employees millions of dollars and that is not going to change. They have not invested in solar energy which would have reduced our rates in the long run. They do not see any benefit to reducing customer rates.

The solar section of the bill needs to be strengthened **drastically**.

There should be yearly targets for energy generated from solar power alone and the yearly goals should be large and go up each year. This is how New Jersey has become the #2 state in the country in a few short years. It is now putting up 20 MW of solar each month. Why are we behind? Do you not think that companies from Connecticut can drive 2 hours and work in NJ? This state must become competitive or it will loose more jobs to NJ and MA which have strong Solar Energy laws.

The rebate to customers of **all** types should be the **same** and it should be a **simple** program. A renewable energy credit should be given to a customer who generates solar energy. Every year the Utilities should be required to

buy large amounts of in state solar renewable energy credits from in state solar generators. This requirement should double each year until 2020 where the goal should be to get 30% of our energy from renewable in state sources. The value of the credit should have a floor and a ceiling to provide a 15 year predictable rebate payment to the customer. I recommend the floor to be \$300 and the ceiling to be \$900. The state should set up a loan system through the Utilities to provide financing for projects and utilities should be required to buy the RECS in 15 year contracts with a up front payment.

There should be a provision to include solar thermal system as heating hot water as well as home space heating using solar thermal energy. Heating hot water uses 30% of a home's energy.

The bill should allow virtual net metering for everyone without any trial or limit so that many towns and businesses with bad locations can put solar somewhere else and have it tie into and offset their high usage bills.

The Feed In Tariff provision as a trial should be eliminated.

Every customer who converts to solar is saving money AND also saving the environment AND at the same time helping the state create jobs and employ people. The benefit from each dollar spent on solar is HUGE as money trickles down into the economy. The benefits of clean pollution free energy are HUGE.



There are no nuclear plants exploding, no gas plants exploding, no people having their well water destroyed by fracking, no oil terminals going up in flames, and no increases in electricity rates because more and more people will be getting their energy from the SUN. You are seeing what has just happened in Japan this past week and we must move away from dangerous energy to a clean and safe forms of energy.

When this state allowed CLP to raise our rates to more than \$1 per kWh using new smart meters what was it thinking? Was it concerned about rate hikes hurting customers then? This same argument cannot be used against incentives for Solar Power when it provides 100 benefits that fossil fuels do not provide.

We need a strong incentive and I urge you to get it done this year by revising this bill and making is much much stronger.

Please remove the Solar Energy provisions from this bill and let everyone vote on it independently as a separate bill.

It is too important to mix up in this large bill.

Sincerely,

Harsh Luthra